



915-014.002  
**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: N. Eiden

Serial No.: 0 / 10/;608,771

Group No.:

Filed: June 26, 2003

Examiner:

For: Vibrating Portable Electronic Device, etc.

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

**Washington, D.C. 20231**

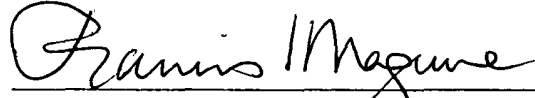
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Attached please find the certified copy of the foreign application from which priority is claimed for this case:

Country : Finland  
Application Number : PCT/FI00/01148  
Filing Date : December 27, 2000

Reg. No. 31,391

Tel. No. (203) 261-1234

  
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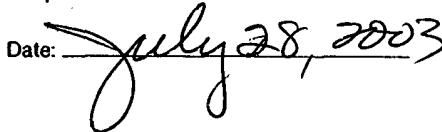
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Helsinki 07.07.2003



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Kansainvälinen patenttihakemus nro  
International patent application no PCT/FI00/01148

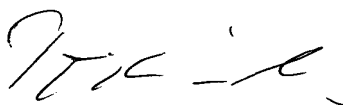
Kansainvälinen tekemispäivä  
International filing date 27.12.2000

Keksinnön nimitys  
Title of invention

**"Vibrating portable electronic device, method of vibrating a portable electronic device and method of messaging by vibrating a portable electronic device"**

Täten todistetaan, että oheiset asiakirjat ovat tarkkoja jäljennöksiä kansainvälisiä patenttihakemuksia vastaanottavana viranomaisena toimivalle Patentti- ja rekisterihallitukselle alkuaan annetuista selityksestä, patenttivaatimuksista, tiivistelmästä ja piirustuksista sekä niihin tehdyistä korjauksista.

This is to certify that the annexed documents are true copies of the description, claims, abstract and drawing, originally filed with the Finnish Patent Office acting as receiving Office for the international patent applications, and of any corrections thereto.

  
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Maksu 50 €  
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Maksu perustuu kauppa- ja teollisuusministeriön antamaan asetukseen 1027/2001 Patentti- ja rekisterihallituksen maksullisista suoritteista muutoksineen.

The fee is based on the Decree with amendments of the Ministry of Trade and Industry No. 1027/2001 concerning the chargeable services of the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland.

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## PCT REQUEST

SL/28295 WO

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0	<b>Receiving Office use only</b>	
0-1	International Application No.	PCT/FI/00/01148
0-2	International Filing Date	27 DEC 2000 (27-12-2000)
0-3	Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"	The Finnish Patent Office PCT International Application
0-4	<b>Form - PCT/RO/101 PCT Request</b>	
0-4-1	Prepared using	PCT-EASY Version 2.91 (updated 10.10.2000)
0-5	<b>Petition</b> The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty	
0-6	Receiving Office (specified by the applicant)	National Board of Patents and Registration (Finland) (RO/FI)
0-7	Applicant's or agent's file reference	SL/28295 WO
I	Title of invention	VIBRATING PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE, METHOD OF VIBRATING A PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND METHOD OF MESSAGING BY VIBRATING A PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE
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SL/28295 WO

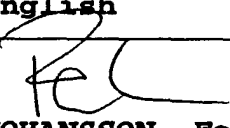
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IV-1	Agent r c mm n repres ntative; r addr ss f r corresp ndenc The person identifi d below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as:	agent
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V	Designation of States	
V-1	Regional Patent (other kinds of protection or treatment, if any, are specified between parentheses after the designation(s) concerned)	AP: GH GM KE LS MW MZ SD SL SZ TZ UG ZW and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT EA: AM AZ BY KG KZ MD RU TJ TM and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Eurasian Patent Convention and of the PCT EP: AT BE CH&LI CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LU MC NL PT SE TR and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT OA: BF BJ CF CG CI CM GA GN GW ML MR NE SN TD TG and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT
V-2	National Patent (other kinds of protection or treatment, if any, are specified between parentheses after the designation(s) concerned)	AE AG AL AM AT (patent and utility model) AU AZ BA BB BG BR BY BZ CA CH&LI CN CR CU CZ (patent and utility model) DE (patent and utility model) DK (patent and utility model) DM DZ EE (patent and utility model) ES FI (patent and utility model) GB GD GE GH GM HR HU ID IL IN IS JP KE KG KP KR KZ LC LK LR LS LT LU LV MA MD MG MK MN MW MX MZ NO NZ PL PT RO RU SD SE SG SI SK (patent and utility model) SL TJ TM TR TT TZ UA UG US UZ VN YU ZA ZW

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V-5	<b>Pre-aurary Designation Statement</b> In addition to the designations made under items V-1, V-2 and V-3, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) of the State(s) indicated under item V-6 below. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit.		
V-6	<b>Exclusion(s) from precautionary designations</b>	NONE	
VI	<b>Priority claim</b>	NONE	
VII-1	<b>International Searching Authority Chosen</b>	European Patent Office (EPO) (ISA/EP)	
VIII	<b>Check list</b>	number of sheets	electronic file(s) attached
VIII-1	Request	4	-
VIII-2	Description	15	-
VIII-3	Claims	4	-
VIII-4	Abstract	1	28295abstract.txt
VIII-5	Drawings	5	-
VIII-7	TOTAL	29	
	<b>Accompanying items</b>	paper document(s) attached	electronic file(s) attached
VIII-8	Fee calculation sheet	✓	-
VIII-10	Copy of general power of attorney	✓	-
VIII-16	PCT-EASY diskette	-	diskette
VIII-18	<b>Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract</b>	3	
VIII-19	<b>Language of filing of the international application</b>	English	
IX-1	<b>Signature of applicant or agent</b>		
IX-1-1	<b>Name (LAST, First)</b>	JOHANSSON, Folke	

## FOR RECEIVING OFFICE USE ONLY

10-1	<b>Date of actual receipt of the purported international application</b>	27 DEC 2000	(27-12-2000)
10-2	<b>Drawings:</b>		
10-2-1	Received		
10-2-2	Not received		
10-3	<b>Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application</b>		

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Original (for SUBMISSION) - printed on 27.12.2000 01:15:15 PM

10-4	Date of time limit for receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2)	
10-5	International Searching Authority	ISA/EP
10-6	Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid	

## FOR INTERNATIONAL BUREAU USE ONLY

11-1	Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau	
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Vibrating portable electronic device, method of vibrating a portable electronic device and method of messaging by vibrating a portable electronic device

This invention relates to vibrating portable electronic devices, method of vibrating  
5 portable electronic devices and method of messaging by vibrating a portable electronic devices.

Vibration is an elegant way to unobtrusively inform a user of a portable device of  
an event, for example to inform a user of a mobile communications device of an  
10 incoming call or message. This vibration is easy to notice even in noisy conditions. Furthermore, a loud alarm signal is not necessary, especially since vibration can be used in combination with an audible alarm signal. In a typical vibrating mobile telephone, the reception of a short message or a telephone call can be indicated by vibration. The vibration is generated by using a miniature-sized electrical motor  
15 rotating an unbalanced weight.

The vibration of a portable device has two major parameters: frequency and amplitude of vibration. It is preferred for these parameters to be in a range within which the vibration is easy to detect, especially if the device is carried in a case or  
20 in a shoulder bag. Yet the vibration should not be unpleasantly vigorous.

Typically, in mobile telephones, the vibration is used in short pulses of approximately one or more seconds. For each pulse, the unbalanced weight is started and it accelerates to a nominal angular speed and causes the mobile  
25 telephone to vibrate. Initially, the unbalanced weight is stationary and it starts to accelerate when an operating voltage is applied to the electrical motor. Therefore, the start is "soft", that is the frequency of the vibration increases and reaches a nominal value corresponding to the nominal angular speed.

30 In informing the user of an event by an audio alarm signal, the type of event may be indicated by using a different sound, melody, or even voice message. If vibration is used to inform the user of an event, it is difficult to distinguish between

different vibrations. To distinguish one type of indication from another, one could alter the duration, the frequency or amplitude of vibration pulses. In each case, however, the change would need to be noticeable. Furthermore, changes in vibration frequency in a vibration pulse could easily feel unpleasant. On the other hand, the amplitude is difficult to vary without changing the frequency. The length of vibration pulses could be altered, but then it is difficult to detect accurately the start of a vibration pulse since the frequency of vibration gradually increases as the motor accelerates until the motor reaches a target angular speed.

- 10 Considering the underlying physics, the centrifugal force  $F$  causing vibration, for a mass element rotating about a rotational axis is:

$$F = m \omega^2 r$$

wherein  $m$  is the mass of the mass element,  $\omega$  is the angular speed of rotation (radians per second) and  $r$  is the offset of the mass element from the rotational axis. As the equation is linear with respect to  $m$  and  $r$ , the equation can be generalised so that it refers to an infinitely small mass centre of a real mass element that is not infinitely small. In this case, the mass  $m$  is the mass of the entire mass element and the radius  $r$  refers to the offset of the mass centre from the rotational axis. The centrifugal force  $F$  causes thus a vibration force. Hence, the vibration force giving an amplitude of vibration (which then depends on the mass of the entire device to be vibrated) is linearly proportional to the mass and offset of the mass centre, but squarely proportional to the angular speed ( $\omega^2$ ) and, correspondingly, squarely proportional to the frequency of rotation. This explains why the amplitude of vibration is difficult to control by the rotational frequency, when inconvenient vibration frequencies are to be avoided.

In systems in which vibration is caused by rotating a rotatable mass about a rotational axis, one way to change the amplitude of vibration is by changing the rotatable mass to another, heavier or lighter, mass or to offset the rotatable mass further away from, or closer to, the rotational axis. Such operation is inconvenient for an average user of a staple portable device such as a mobile communications device.



Now a new vibrating portable device and a method of causing a portable device to vibrate has been invented, where the amplitude of the vibration can be controlled.

5 According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided a vibrating portable electronic device, comprising:

a body;

a driving axle having a rotational axis about which it rotates, the driving axle being rotatably supported by the body;

10 a weight unit comprising at least one weight element, the weight unit having a total mass  $m$  and being coupled to the driving axle for being rotated about the rotational axis of the driving axle,

wherein the weight unit has a mass centre with an offset  $r$  with respect to the rotational axis, so that the vibration of the portable device assumes an amplitude of vibration depending on the product of the offset  $r$  and the mass  $m$ ; and

15 an electrical motor for rotating the driving axle;

characterised in that the electrical motor is adapted to adjust the product of the offset  $r$  and the mass  $m$ .

20

Preferably, the weight unit comprises at least two weight elements. Preferably, the electrical motor is adapted to adjust the angular disposition of the weight elements in order to change the offset  $r$ . By adjusting the offset  $r$ , the vibration of the device can be rapidly altered to and maintained on a desired level. This allows the vibration to be synchronised with a music signal or an audible informing signal.

25

Preferably, the weight elements are on a same axial side with regard to the electrical motor. By positioning all the weight elements on the same axial side of the electrical motor, the device is simpler to construct. Alternatively, the weight unit comprises a weight element on each side of the electrical motor (in the axial direction).

30

Preferably, the electrical motor is adapted to adjust the product responsive to at least one electrical signal. This at least one electrical signal may be, for example, a ringing tone signal, an alarm signal, a notification signal, or a messaging signal.

- 5 Preferably, the electrical motor is capable of adjusting the product automatically. This allows automatic selection of desired vibration amplitude in accordance with a criterion, such as the type of vibration signal to be given.

10 Preferably, the device further comprises another electrical motor and a separate driving axle for the another electrical motor. Either of the two electrical motors is adapted to use its driving axle in order to rotate at least one weight element. Furthermore, the device preferably comprises a controller for controlling the operation of the electrical motors. The controller is adapted to adjust the angular disposition of the weight elements by controlling the rotation of at least one  
15 electrical motor so that the weight elements can be rotated in to a desired relative angular relationship.

Advantageously, the vibrating portable device allows easy adjustment of the vibration amplitude without necessarily requiring use of any physical tools.

20

Preferably, the electrical motor is capable of adjusting the product substantially down to zero. Preferably, this is carried out by balancing the weight unit so that the offset  $r$  becomes practically zero, that is the mass centre is set on the rotational axis. By reducing the product practically to zero, the electrical motor can be  
25 accelerated to its operational angular speed without the user feeling any vibration during such an acceleration phase. By increasing the product of the offset  $r$  and the mass  $m$  after the electrical motor has substantially reached its target angular speed, the vibration of the portable device with a substantially constant frequency can be started rapidly.

30

Preferably, the weight elements have a common rotational axis and face each other. This allows positioning of the weight elements in substantially the same

space within the body.

Preferably, the device further comprises means for allowing the weight elements to move with respect to each other in order to adjust the offset  $r$ .

5

Preferably, the means for allowing the weight elements to move with respect to each other is adapted to turn the weight elements to a different angular disposition about the rotational axis and with respect to each other. This allows a relatively straightforward implementation of a vibration amplitude adjustable device.

10

Preferably, the device further comprises a resilient member for forming an angular torsion force that tries to change the angular disposition of the weight elements with respect to each other to a first angular direction. The torsion force depends on the amount of angular disposition and corresponds to the angular disposition.

15

Even more preferably, the controller is adapted to adjust the rotating power of the electrical motors so that a desired difference in rotating forces forms which is equal to the angular force at a desired amount of the angular disposition. (The rotating power is the product of the rotation speed and rotating force). When the second electrical motor runs, the weight elements assume a second, different angular disposition, causing a second product of the offset  $r$  and the mass  $m$ . The second product differs from the first product.

20

Advantageously, the resilient member facilitates continuous and smooth adjustment of the product of the offset  $r$  and the mass  $m$  within a desired range whilst the weight unit is rotating. This provides various advantages, such as adjusting the product to change the amplitude of vibration thus allowing indication of different vibration signals to a user.

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In an alternative embodiment of the invention, two different angular dispositions of weight elements are realised by choice of one of the electrical motor to be electrically driven. In a first case, only one of the electrical motors is electrically driven in the first angular direction so that it drives mechanically the weight unit

30

and the other electrical motor. The other electrical motor causes a friction force that makes the weight elements assume a first angular disposition with respect to each other. In a second case, the other electrical motor is electrically driven in the first angular direction for mechanically driving the weight unit and the other  
5 electrical motor. The mechanically driven electrical motor causes a friction force that effects in the same angular direction as the resilient member so that the weight elements assume a second angular disposition with respect to each other.

The device allows accelerating first the weight unit substantially to its operating  
10 angular speed and after that switching on the vibration so that the vibration immediately starts with a substantially constant amplitude and frequency.

According to a second aspect of the invention a method is provided for vibrating a portable electronic device comprising the steps of:

- 15 providing the device with a weight unit having a mass  $m$  and a mass centre;  
providing the device with a driving axle and an electrical motor;  
coupling the electrical motor, driving axle and weight unit;  
rotating the weight unit around a rotational axis by the electrical motor using  
the driving axle;
- 20 positioning the mass centre at an offset  $r$  with respect to the rotational axis  
for vibrating the device with an amplitude depending on the product of the offset  $r$   
and the mass  $m$ ;  
characterised in that the method further comprises the step of:  
adjusting the product of the offset  $r$  and the mass  $m$  by the electrical motor rotating  
25 the weight unit.

Preferably, the said adjusting occurs during the rotation of the weight unit. Even more preferably, the adjusting occurs in response to a triggering event selected from a group consisting of the following: the rotation speed of the weight unit  
30 changing to a predetermined level, the rotation speed of the weight unit changing, a change in a melody being played by the portable electronic device, receiving a message, receiving a message from a particular sender, receiving a particular type

of message, reaching a time of day, and reaching a date.

According to a third aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of messaging by vibrating a portable electronic device having coupled an electrical  
5 motor, a driving axle and a weight unit having a mass  $m$  with a mass centre; the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a message;

rotating the weight unit around a rotational axis by the electrical motor using  
the driving axle;

10 positioning the mass centre at an offset  $r$  with respect to the rotational axis for vibrating the device with an amplitude depending on the product of the offset  $r$  and the mass  $m$ ;

characterised in that the method further comprises the step of:

adjusting in accordance with the message the product of the offset  $r$  and the mass  
15  $m$  by the electrical motor rotating the weight unit.

The method of messaging allows for sending "vibration messages", that is to communicate by means of vibration. The sender can, for example, formulate a message containing a code "vibrate 1" or "vibrate 2" to indicate the type of  
20 vibration to be carried out by a receiving device. When the message is transmitted to the receiving device, its user becomes aware of the content of the message by means of the vibration specific for this type of message.

Preferably, the different vibration messages distinguish by at least one of the  
25 following factors: the pace of the vibration ("rhythm"), the frequency of vibration during vibration, and the amplitude of vibration during vibration. Preferably, at least one of the frequency and the amplitude is varied during the playing of the vibrating message.

30 The present invention is applicable to be used in various kinds of portable electronic devices. These include mobile telephones (cellular telephones, wireless telephones, satellite telephones) and gaming devices such as vibrating joysticks

and steering wheels for providing a more natural response to different events of games. Generally speaking, the invention can be used in devices the use of which requires providing a user either with mechanical feedback of an event occurring or with a mechanical notification of an event occurring.

5

The invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a system for causing vibration in a first configuration, according to a preferred embodiment of the invention;

10 Figure 2 shows another view of the system of Figure 1 in the first configuration;

Figure 3 shows a detailed view of the system of Figure 2;

Figure 4 shows a detailed view of the system of Figure 1 in a second configuration;

15 Figure 5 shows system according to an embodiment of the invention;

Figure 6 shows a cross-section against a rotational axis of a weight unit in a first configuration, according to an alternative embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 7 shows the system of Figure 6 in a second configuration;

20 Figure 8 shows a block diagram of a mobile telephone comprising a system for causing vibration according to a preferred embodiment of the invention;

Figure 9 shows a messaging process according to an aspect of the invention.

25 Next, an introduction follows before a thorough description of a system according to a preferred embodiment of the invention. The system is an example according to a first aspect of the invention and it implements the method of a second aspect of the invention. The third aspect of the invention, messaging with adjusting the vibration is explained later with reference to Figure 9.

30

Figure 1 shows a system 10 for causing vibration in a first configuration, according to a preferred embodiment of the invention. The system comprises a first electrical

motor 11A, a second electrical motor 11B, a first weight element 12A, a second weight element 12B and a tubular housing 15 for accommodating the aforementioned components. Figure 1 illustrates the system in a disassembled form, where the components have been removed from the housing 15. When the system is assembled, the two electrical motors 11A and 11 B are coaxially supported by the housing 15 and separated such that the weight elements 12A and 12B fit rotateably between them. The weight elements 12A and 12B have a similar basic shape. Their diameter is approximately 5 to 20 mm and their length is few millimetres. The weight elements are driven about a common rotational axis by their respective electrical motors and can rotate in relation to each other. In the preferred embodiment the weight elements can rotate in relation to each other to a limited extent, as will be described in more detail with reference to Figures 2 and 3. In this first configuration, the first and second weight elements 12A and 12B are both generally aligned on the same side of their common rotational axis so that together they form an unbalanced weight unit.

Figure 2 shows another view of the system of Figure 1 in its first configuration. The housing 15 is not shown. Figure 3 shows a detailed view of the system of Figure 2. The system is next described with reference to Figures 2 and 3. In an axial direction from left to right along the common rotational axis there is the first electrical motor 11A, the first axle 13A, the first weight element 12A, the second axle 13B, the second weight element 12B and the second electrical motor 11B. The first axle 13A extends out of the first electrical motor 11A and fits into a first hole 12A1 in the first weight element. The first axle 13A is keyed to the first weight element 12A so that the first weight element 12A can be rotated by the first electrical motor 11A using the first axle 13A. The second axle 13B extends out of the second electrical motor 11B and passes through a conduit 12B1 of the second weight element 12B, extends cross a gap between the weight elements 12A, 12B and is received as a close fit by a second hole 12A2 in the first weight element. The second axle 13B is keyed to the second weight element 12B, but free to rotate within the second hole 12A2.

The first and second holes 12A1, 12A2 are coaxial with the rotational axis of the weight elements and the axles 13A,13B. The holes support the ends of the axles 13A, 13B. This reduces mutual movement of the weight elements 12A,12B and thus also reduces their abrasion.

5

The first weight element 12A has a pocket 14A spaced from the rotational axis. The second weight element 12B has a lug 14B that overlaps with the first weight element in the direction of the rotational axis. In the first configuration, the pocket 14A receives the lug 14B. When the lug 14B engages the pocket 14A, the first weight element 12A is able to turn in relation to the second weight element 12B in one angular direction approximately 180° (from the first configuration to a second configuration) but not at all in the opposite angular direction.

10

Figure 4 shows a detailed view of the system of Figure 1 in a second configuration. The first and second weight elements 12A and 12B are basically aligned on opposite sides of their common rotational axis. Thus the weight unit formed of the weight elements is well balanced and the rotation of the weight unit does not cause practically any vibration.

15

Figure 5 shows a system according to an embodiment of the invention. The system is a refinement of the embodiment shown in Figure 2 as it additionally contains a torsion spring 51 (a helical steel spring) between the weight elements 12A,12B. The torsion spring 51 forms a resilient and angular torsion force that tries to change angular disposition of the weight elements 12A,12B with respect to each other in a first angular direction. The magnitude of the torsion force depends on the amount of the angular disposition of the weight elements. The weight elements 12A,12B continually try to settle in such an angular disposition, in which the torsion force equals to the difference in the rotating forces. Hence, the angular disposition of the weight elements 12A,12B can be continually adjusted to and maintained on a desired level by controlling the rotating power of the electrical motors so that a difference in rotating forces equals to the torsion force at the desired angular disposition of the weight elements. The angular disposition can be freely adjusted

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25

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within a range in which the weight elements 12A,12B can move angularly with respect to each other. The torsion spring allows stepless and smooth control of the amplitude of vibration.

- 5 The appropriate difference in rotating forces depends on the stiffness of the torsion spring 51. If the friction in each electrical motor is the same, then the difference in electrical powers fed to the electrical motors linearly corresponds to the difference in rotating forces.
- 10 In yet another alternative embodiment, either the first or second electrical motor is electrically driven. The other electrical motor is not electrically driven. Regardless of that which electrical motor is driven, the weight elements 12A,12B are rotated in the same angular direction. The electrical motor not driven brakes the weight
- 15 element connected to it because the electrical motors always have some internal friction. Depending on the selection of the electrical motor to be used, the weight unit assumes either the first or second configuration. The torsion spring assists the transition from one configuration to another and hinders the transition in the opposite angular direction. The torsion spring 51 is only used to accelerate transition between the two configurations. In one yet another alternative
- 20 embodiment the selection of electrical motor is also used, but the device is constructed without the torsion spring 51. In that case, the transition from one angular disposition is slower in one angular direction, but faster in the opposite angular direction.
- 25 When the angular disposition of weight elements is adjusted by the selection of electrical motor used for driving the weight elements, the freedom of selection of the vibration amplitude is reduced.

Figure 6 shows a cross-section against a rotational axis of a weight unit in a first

30 configuration, according to an alternative embodiment of the present invention. The weight unit 60 comprises two steel-made weight elements having a rectangular cross-section. A first weight element 61A has been rotatably attached

by a hinge 63 to an axle 62. The cross-section of the axle 62 is square. The first weight element 61A is positioned so that a side of the first weight element covers a first side of the axle. A second weight element 61B is fixed to the axle 62 on a side opposite to the first side, for example by a pin 64. A screw 65 is located at a distance from the hinge 63 and turned to the first side of the axle so that its head protrudes from the side of the axle. The head of the screw 65 causes a gap between the first weight element 61A and the first side of the axle 62.

A magnet 66 is fixed next to the screw 65 so that it exerts a magnetic force on the first weight element 61A to draw it towards the axle 62 about the hinge 63. The screw is used for adjusting the magnetic force to a desired level. In an alternative embodiment, the axle 62 may be magnetised.

The weight unit is rotated by an electrical motor using the axle 62 in an angular direction (counter clockwise in Figure 6) such that deceleration of the weight unit 60 tries to turn the first weight element about the hinge 63 against the screw 65. When the weight unit rotates with the axle 62, centrifugal force is applied to the weight elements. The second weight element 61B is fixed to the axle so that it cannot move in relation to the axle 62. Although the first weight element 61A can move about the hinge 63, it stays in contact with the screw 63 as long as the magnetic force exceeds the centrifugal force effecting to the magnet 66. However, when the centrifugal force effecting to the magnet exceeds the magnetic force, the weight unit assumes its second configuration, shown in Figure 7, wherein the first element turns so that its weight centre settles as far from the rotational axis as possible. At the same time, the weight unit becomes unbalanced and starts to cause vibration.

If a braking force is applied to the axle 62 (for example by the electrical motor), the first weight element 61A experiences a turning force about the hinge 63. The turning force moves the first element 61A about the hinge 63 and against the head of the screw 65. Then the first element 61A becomes again held in place by the magnet 66 so that the weight unit is again in the first configuration.

Regarding all the embodiments of the invention, when the product of the offset  $r$  and the mass rapidly increases, the power required by an electrical motor rotating the weight unit increases and the angular speed of the weight unit tends to drop.

5 Therefore, it is advantageous to compensate for this effect by supplying an increased electrical power to the electrical motor in order to maintain a substantially constant angular speed. Alternatively, the weight unit is initially accelerated to an angular speed sufficiently excessive to a target angular speed so that the change in the product of the offset  $r$  and the mass causes the angular  
10 speed of the weight unit to decrease until it reaches the target angular speed. The initial angular speed required can either be calculated or determined empirically.

Figure 8 shows a block diagram of a mobile telephone MT comprising a system 10 for causing vibration according to a preferred embodiment of the invention. The  
15 mobile telephone MT further comprises a radio block RF for wireless communications with a mobile communications network (not shown) and a speaker SPK for playing different ringing tones, clock alarms, calendar reminder sounds, indication sounds or melodies for informing a user of an incoming message such as a short message, a facsimile message or electronic mail.

20 Additionally, the mobile telephone MT comprises a central processing unit CPU for controlling its operation. The CPU controls the system 10 to make it generate vibration in appropriate circumstances. These circumstances include the following: a change in a melody being played by the mobile telephone MT, receipt of a message, receipt of a particular type of message and the time of day or date  
25 reaching a predefined alarm time or date. The mobile telephone MT may be capable of playing music through the speaker SPK. In this case, the vibration can be synchronised with the music being played through the speaker SPK.

Figure 9 shows a messaging process according to an aspect of the invention. In  
30 the messaging process, vibration messages are generated and played with a mobile telephone MT shown in Figure 8. These messages can be handled by a telecommunications network as ordinary text messages, such as the Short

Message Service in Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM). The process contains the following main steps: start (block 91), composing a vibration message to be sent (block 92), transmitting the vibration message (block 93), receiving the vibration message by a recipient of the message (block 94), playing it (that is, for causing vibration according to the message) (block 95) and end (block 96). In the process, a scheme is agreed between a message sender and receiver to map different messages with different vibration tunes. The term vibration tune refers to a continuous vibration or a series of vibrations. It can have variations in vibration frequency and amplitude. Changes in amplitude may be sufficiently large that a receiver of the tune is able to feel changes in the character of the vibration or vibrations so that the vibration feels discontinuous, for example, mimicking a rhythm of a musical melody. Hence, the vibration may form beats corresponding to the rhythm of the melody.

The agreed scheme can be customised by the user or pre-set, for example, at a factory, when the mobile telephone is being manufactured. For example, a message containing a code "vibrate 1" may refer to a happy vibration tune ("good" vibrations), corresponding to a melody of a song. It may be sent by one individual to another individual as a good luck message. Alternatively, an individual might send an angry or apologetic vibration message. The message causing this might be a text message containing a code "vibrate 2". When the message is received by a mobile telephone of Figure 8, its user becomes aware of the content of the message by means of the vibration specific for this type of message.

The different vibration messages, or tunes, distinguish by at least one of the following factors: the pace of the vibration ("rhythm", that is discrete instances of vibration separated by instances of no vibration or noticeably less vibration), vibration frequency (motor speed), and the amplitude of vibration during vibration. In this embodiment, at least one of the pace and amplitude of vibration are varied during the playing of the vibrating message.

In yet another alternative embodiment, different types of vibration notifications are used to draw a user's attention to a reminder. In this case, the different types of notifications (such as clock alarm, meeting reminder, phone call reminder) can be mapped to different vibration tunes. This allows a user to recognise the reminder based on the type of vibration he feels.

Particular implementations and embodiments of the invention have been described. It is clear to a person skilled in the art that the invention is not restricted to details of the embodiments presented above, but that it can be implemented in other embodiments using equivalent means without deviating from the characteristics of the invention. The scope of the invention is only restricted by the attached patent claims.

## Claims

1. A vibrating portable electronic device (MT), comprising:

a body (15);

a driving axle (13A) having a rotational axis about which it rotates, the  
5 driving axle being rotatably supported by the body;

a weight unit (12A&12B;61A&61B) comprising at least one weight  
(12A,12B;61A,61B) element, the weight unit having a total mass  $m$  and being  
coupled to the driving axle (13A) for being rotated about the rotational axis of  
the driving axle;

10 wherein the weight unit (12A&12B;61A&61B) has a mass centre with an  
offset  $r$  with respect to the rotational axis, so that the vibration of the portable  
device assumes an amplitude of vibration depending on the product of the  
offset  $r$  and the mass  $m$ ; and

an electrical motor (11A) for rotating the driving axle; **characteris d**  
15 in that the electrical motor (11A) is adapted to adjust the product of the offset  
 $r$  and the mass  $m$ .

2. A vibrating portable electronic device according to claim 1, **characterised**  
in that the weight unit comprises at least two weight elements (12A,12B).

20 3. A vibrating portable electronic device according to claim 2, **characteris d**  
in that the electrical motor (11A) is adapted to adjust the angular disposition  
of the weight elements (12A,12B) in order to change the offset  $r$ .

25 4. A vibrating portable electronic device according to claim 2 or 3,  
**characterised** in that the weight elements (12A,12B) are on a same axial  
side with regard to the electrical motor (11A).

30 5. A vibrating portable electronic device according to any of the claims 1 to 3,  
**charact rised** in that the weight unit comprises a weight element  
(12A,12B) on each side of the electrical motor (11A).

6. A vibrating portable electronic device according to any of claims 2 to 5, **characterised** in that the device further comprises another electrical motor (11B) and a separate driving axle (13B) for the another electrical motor.
- 5 7. A vibrating portable electronic device according to claim 6, **characterised** in that the device preferably comprises a controller (CPU) for controlling the operation of the electrical motors (11A,11B).
8. A vibrating portable electronic device according to any of the preceding claims, **characterised** in that the electrical (11A) motor is capable of  
10 adjusting the product substantially down to zero.
9. A vibrating portable electronic device according to claim 2 and any of the preceding claims, **characterised** in that the weight elements (12A,12B)  
15 have a common rotational axis and face each other.
10. A vibrating portable electronic device according to claim 2 and any of the preceding claims, **characterised** in that the device further comprises means (13A,12A2) for allowing the weight elements (12A,12B) to move with  
20 respect to each other in order to adjust said offset r.
11. A vibrating portable electronic device according to claim 10, **characterised** in that the means (13A,12A2) for allowing the weight elements (12A,12B) to move with respect to each other is adapted to turn the weight elements to a  
25 different angular disposition about the driving axle (13A) and with respect to each other.
12. A vibrating portable electronic device according to claim 2 and any of the preceding claims, **characterised** in that the device further comprises a  
30 resilient member (51) for forming an angular torsion force that tries to change the angular disposition of the weight elements with respect to each other to a first angular direction.

13. A vibrating portable electronic device according to claims 7 and 12, **characterised** in that the controller (CPU) is adapted to adjust the rotating power of the electrical motors (11A,11B) so that a desired difference in rotating forces forms equal to the torsion force at the desired amount of the angular disposition.

14. A vibrating portable electronic device according to claim 2 and 6 and any of the preceding claims, **characterised** in that two different angular dispositions of weight elements (12A,12B) are realised by choice of a running electrical motor among the two electrical motors (11A,11B).

15. A vibrating portable electronic device according to any of the preceding claims, **characterised** in that the electrical motor (11A) is adapted to adjust the product responsive to at least one electrical signal.

16. A vibrating portable electronic device according to claim 15, **characterised** in that the electrical signal is selected from a group consisting of: a ringing tone signal, an alarm signal, a notification signal, or a messaging signal.

17. A method for vibrating a portable electronic device comprising the steps of:  
providing the device with a weight unit having a mass  $m$  and a mass centre;  
providing the device with a driving axle and an electrical motor;  
coupling the electrical motor, driving axle and weight unit;  
rotating the weight unit around a rotational axis by the electrical motor using the driving axle;

positioning the mass centre at an offset  $r$  with respect to the rotational axis for vibrating the device with an amplitude depending on the product of the offset  $r$  and the mass  $m$ ;

**characterised** in that the method further comprises the step of:  
adjusting the product of the offset  $r$  and the mass  $m$  by the electrical motor rotating the weight unit.



18. A method according to claim 17, **characterised** by said adjusting occurring during the rotating of the weight unit.

5 19. A method according to claim 17 or 18, **characterised** by the adjusting occurring in response to a triggering event selected from a group consisting of the following: the rotation speed of the weight unit changing to a predetermined level, the rotation speed of the weight unit changing, a change in a melody being played by the portable electronic device, receiving a message, receiving a message from a particular sender, receiving a particular type of message, reaching a time of day, and reaching a date.

10 20. A method of messaging by vibrating a portable electronic device having coupled an electrical motor, a driving axle and a weight unit having a mass  $m$  with a mass centre; the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a message;

rotating the weight unit around a rotational axis by the electrical motor using the driving axle;

20 positioning the mass centre at an offset  $r$  with respect to the rotational axis for vibrating the device with an amplitude depending on the product of the offset  $r$  and the mass  $m$ ;

**characterised** in that the method further comprises the step of:

adjusting in accordance with the message the product of the offset  $r$  and the mass  $m$  by the electrical motor rotating the weight unit.

25

## Abstract

A portable vibrating device has two electrical motors each having an axle and a weight element coupled to the axle. The axles couple the electrical motors to the weight elements. The weight elements form a weight unit having a total mass  $m$  and having a mass centre with an offset  $r$  in respect to a rotational axis. The weight units are angularly disposed to different angular dispositions for varying the amplitude of vibration according to a desired scheme. The angular disposition is controlled by the rotation of the electrical motors. The device may be able to receive messages and to play the by varying the amplitude of vibration accordingly.

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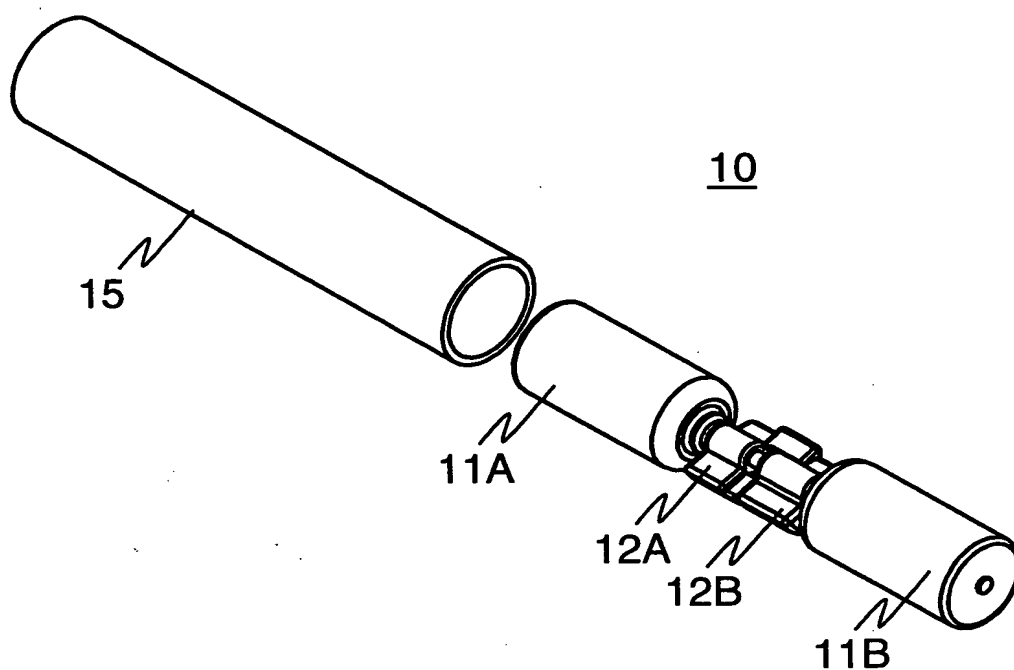


Fig. 1

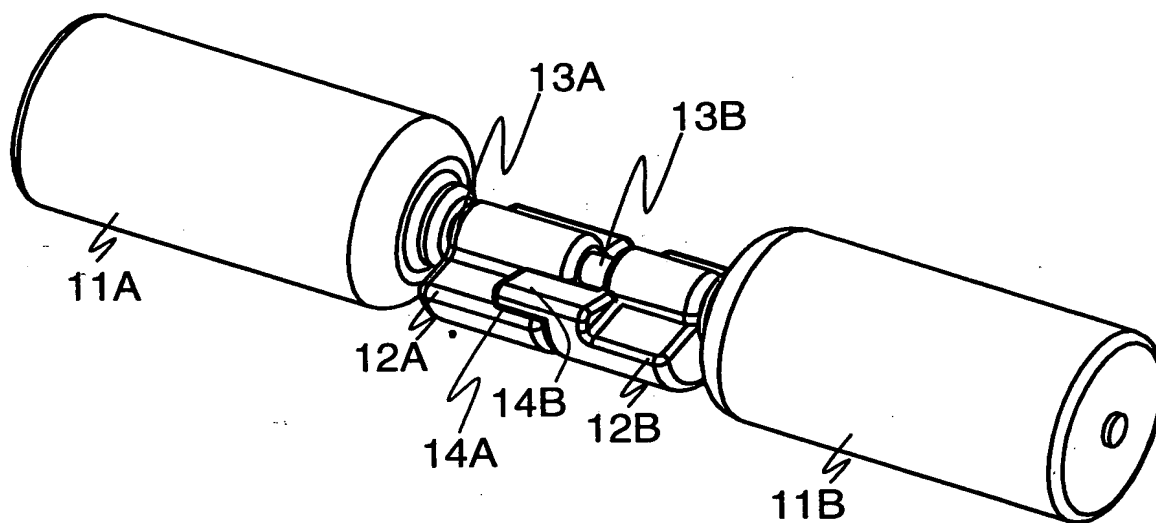


Fig. 2

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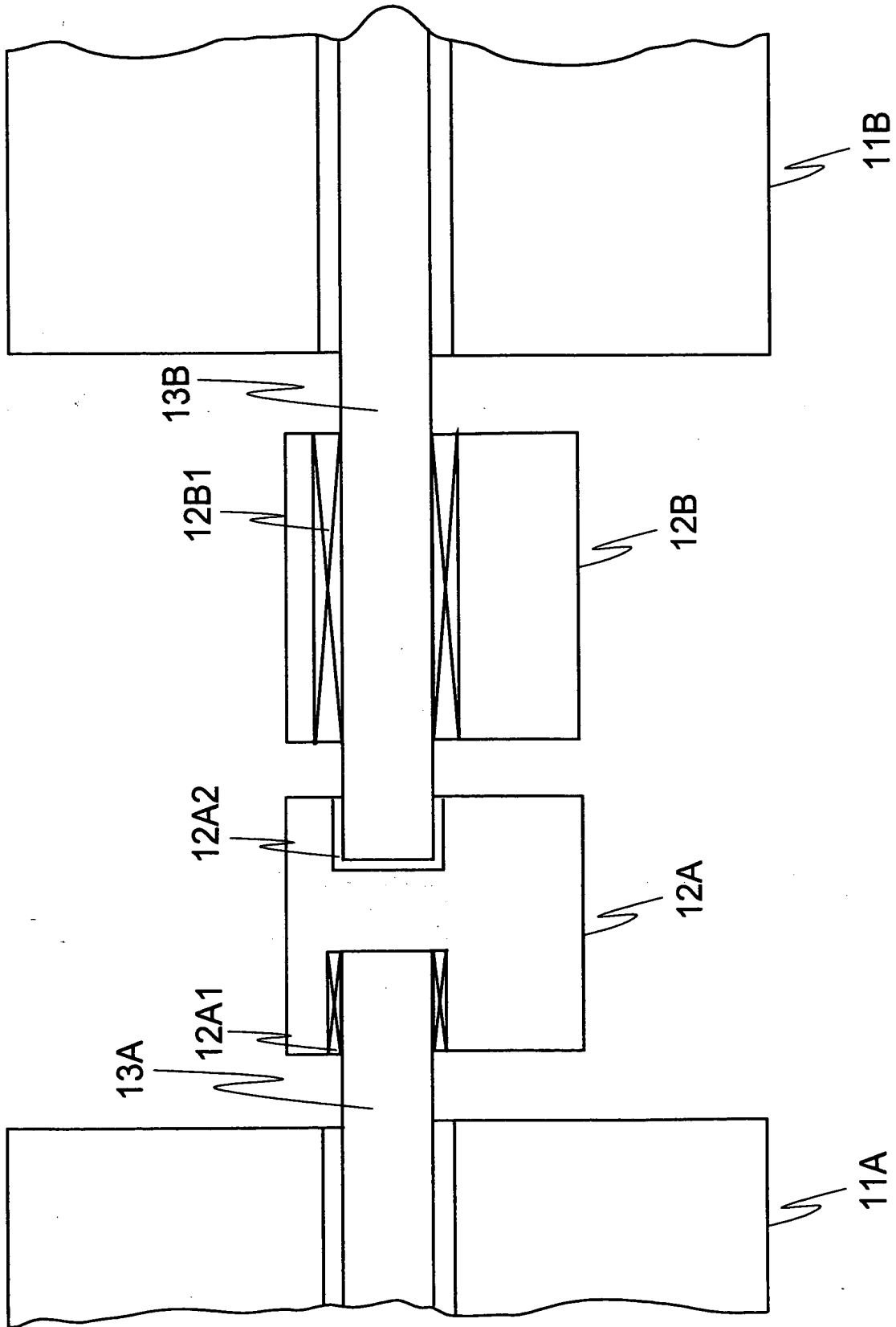


Fig. 3

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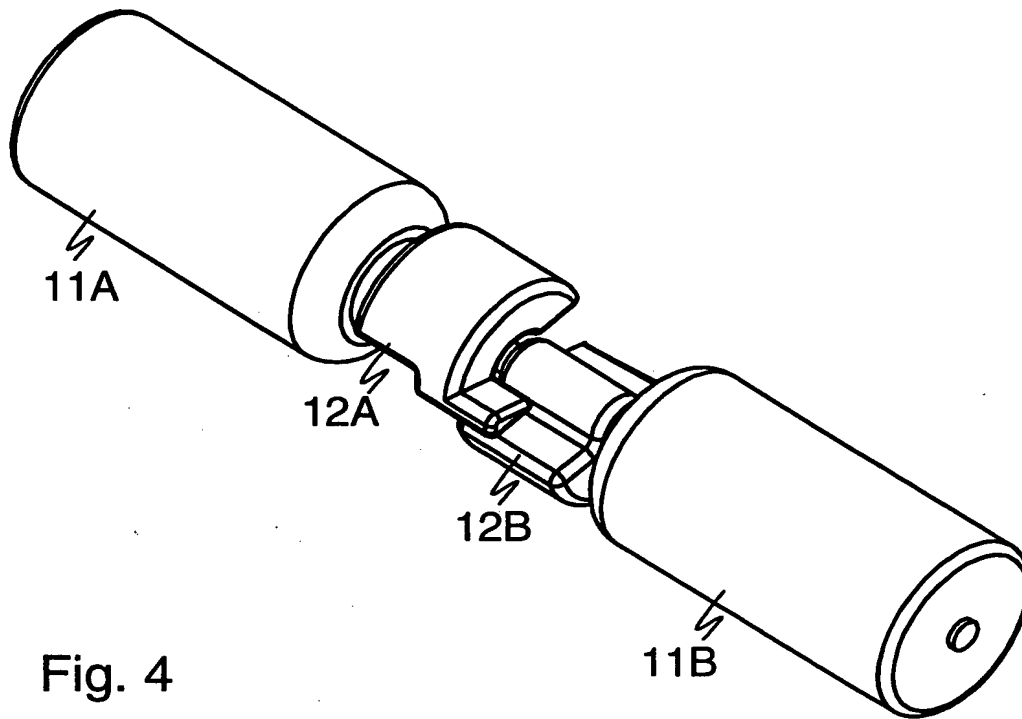


Fig. 4

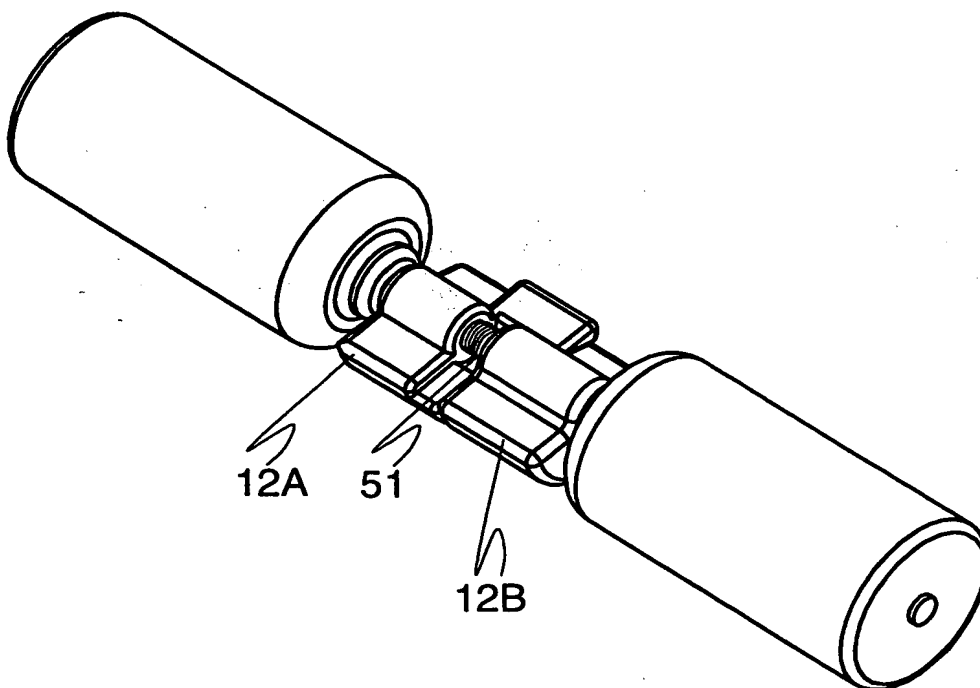


Fig. 5

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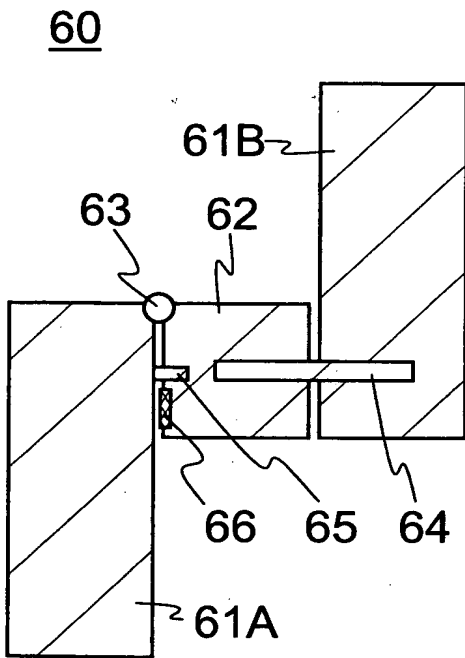


Fig. 6

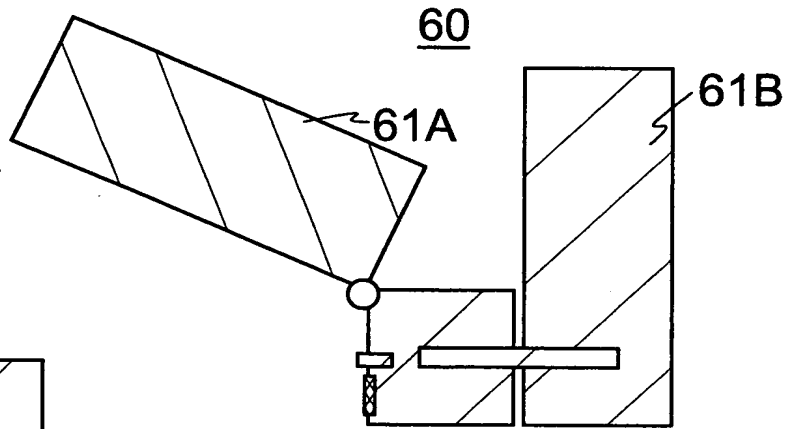


Fig. 7

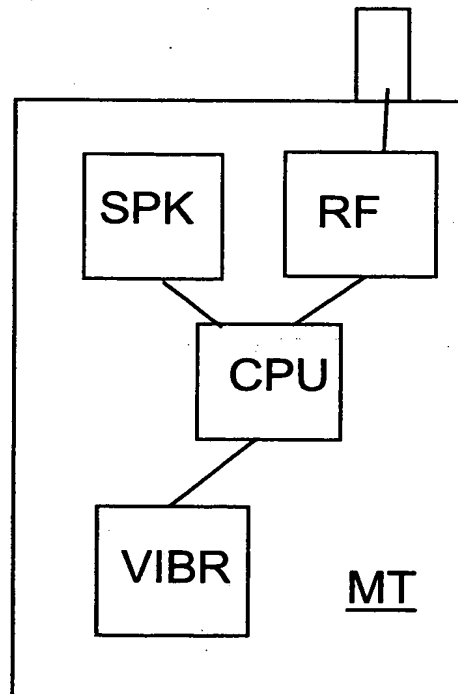


Fig. 8

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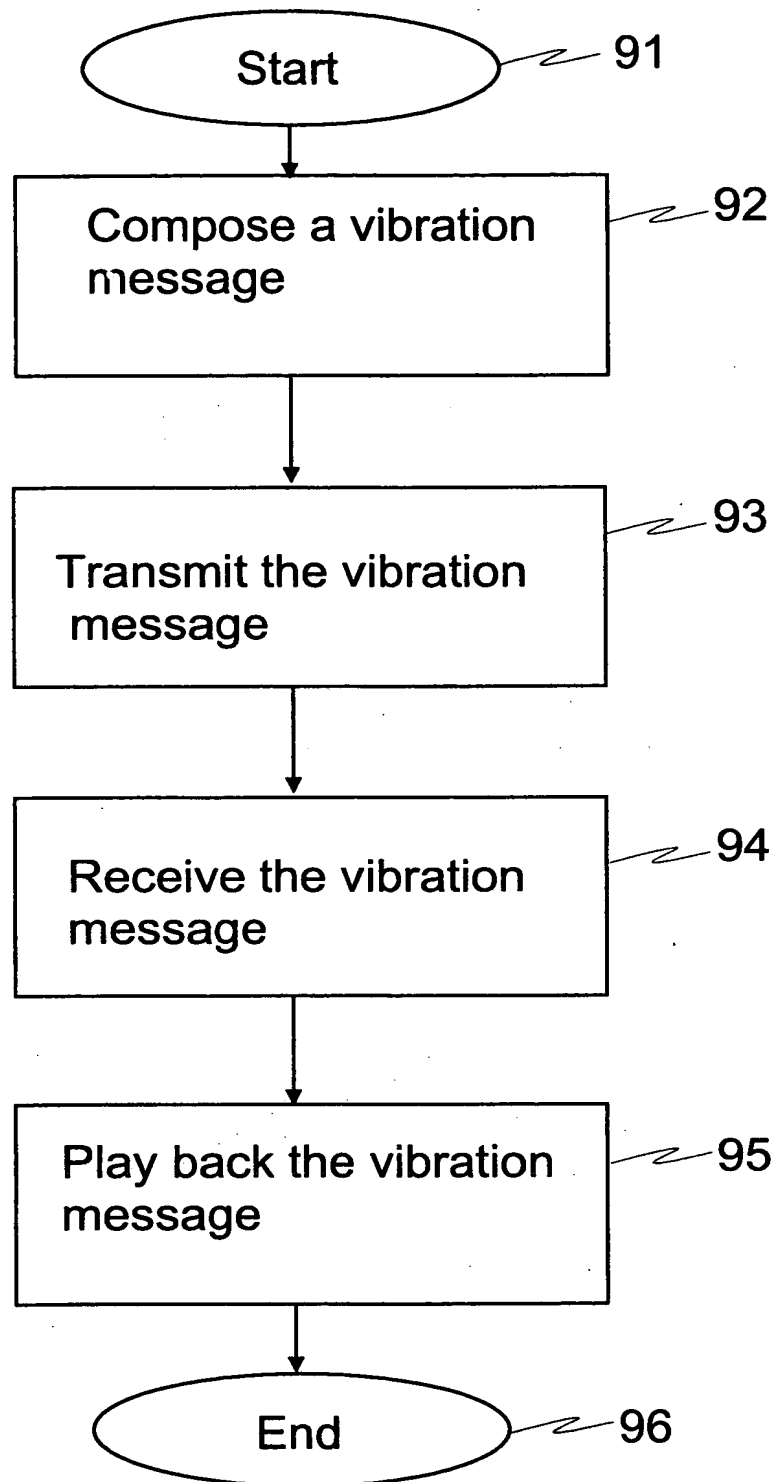


Fig. 9